

Waste Tires

South Carolina's waste tire management program began in the early 1990s with counties recovering nearly 110 million tires from current generation and stockpiles of illegally dumped or stored tires across the state. This figure does not include waste tires sent directly to recyclers and not through county programs. The end-of-life management of waste tires was addressed with the passage of the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 which, among other things, bans the disposal of whole tires in landfills, requires county governments to manage waste tires generated within the county with collection and enforcement programs, and places a \$2 fee on the purchase of specific new tires that provides funding for the proper management and recycling of tires.

In recent years, issues have emerged that threaten the current program including significant costs to counties for the collection, hauling, and processing of waste tires that present funding methodologies cannot sustain as well as limited markets for the recycling and reuse of waste tires. The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) recently reinstated the South Carolina Scrap Tire Sustainability Coalition, which held its first meeting in September of 2023, to develop solutions for sustainable tire management and to develop new funding mechanisms for counties across the state.

Gary Mixon, Sumter County Administrator, and Johnathan Bryan, Sumter County Attorney asks the committee to support legislation to address the cost of waste tire disposal that county governments currently face in South Carolina.

Steering Committee's Recommended Policy Position:

Support legislation that would address the increasing cost of waste tire disposal that county governments are currently facing, including, but not limited to: (1) Increasing the current \$2 advanced recycling fee; (2) Eliminating the current \$150/ton cap to allow counties across the state to address their local cost of disposal.